

**Notice of Allowability**

Applicant(s)

09/988,446

Applicant(s)

ECOB ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

LeChi Truong

2194

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 04/03/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 1, 3, 6-8, 14, 17-22, 24-26, 28-31, 33 now renumbered as claims 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 01/10/2005
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
WILLIAM THOMSON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

**Examiner's Amendment**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mrs. (Registration number: 38,575) on 9/12/2005.

3. Amend the following claims:

I. Claim 24: (Currently amended) A method of providing forward compatibility of device driver code of an unchangeable application with a plurality of device models, wherein said application is stored in a read-only memory and not linked to other executable code, said method comprising the steps of:

including device model independent device driver code in said application;  
determining a model of an output device which said application is desired to issue commands to;

determining whether a device model dependent configuration data in a memory card matches said model of said output device;

upon determining that said device model dependent configuration data in the memory card matches said model of said output device, reading the model dependent configuration data for said model of said output device from the [[a]] memory card; and  
generating a device driver for said model of said output device by configuring

said device model independent device driver code with said model dependent configuration data.

- II. Claim 28: (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus for providing forward compatibility of device driver code of an unchangeable application with a plurality of device models, wherein said application is stored in a read-only memory and not linked to other executable code and said device driver code is device model independent, said apparatus comprising:

a memory card for storing model dependent configuration data for a plurality of devices; means for determining a model of an output device which said application is desired to issue commands to;

means for determining whether a device model dependent configuration data in a memory card matches said model of said output device;

data reading means for reading model dependent configuration data associated with said model of said output device from said memory card upon determining that said device model dependent configuration data in the memory card matches said model of said output device; and

means for generating a device driver for said model of said output device by configuring said device model independent device driver code with said model dependent configuration data.

- III. Claim 32. (Canceled)

IV. Claim 33: (Currently amended) A computer program product, carried on a read-only storage medium, for providing forward compatibility with a plurality of device models, wherein said computer program product is not linked to other executable code, said computer program product comprising:

an application including a device model independent device driver code;

code for determining a model of an output device which said application is desired to issue commands to;

code for determining whether a device model dependent configuration data in a memory card matches said model of said output device;

code for reading model dependent configuration data associated with said model of said output device from the [[a]] memory card upon determining that said device model dependent configuration data in the memory card matches said model of said output device; and

code for generating a device driver for said model of said output device by configuring device model independent device driver code with said model dependent configuration data.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LeChi Truong whose telephone number is ( 571) 272 3767. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 - 5.

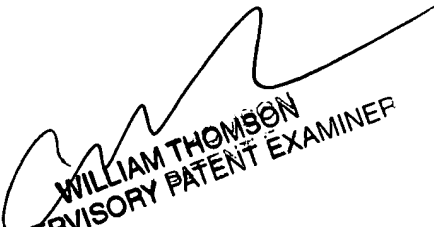
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomson, William can be reached on (571) 272 3718. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIP. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIP system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197(toll-free).

LeChi Truong

May 9, 2006

  
WILLIAM THOMSON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This is in responding to the amendment filed 04/03/2006.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 14, 17-22, 24-26, 28-31, 33 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 1, 21, 22, 24, 28, 33, the prior art as taught by Randisky( US. Patent 5,668,996), Mastie( US. Patent 6,515,756 B1) and Admitted Prior Art do not teach on render obvious the limitations recited in claims 1, 21, 22, 24, 28, 33, when taken in the context of the claims as a whole, determining whether a device model dependent configuration data in a memory device matches said model of said output device, said memory device being a memory card connected to said information processing apparatus as recited in the independent claims 1, 21, 22, 24, 28 and 33. Moreover, evidence for modifying the prior art teachings by one of ordinary skill level in the art was not uncovered so as to result in the invention as recited in claims 1, 21, 22, 24, 28 and 33.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Conclusion***

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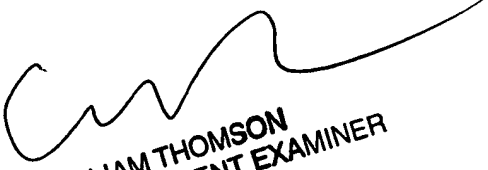
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LeChi Truong whose telephone number is ( 571) 272 3767. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 - 5.

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LeChi Truong

May 9, 2006



WILLIAM THOMSON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER